IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous ink composition for inkjet recording comprising:

a dye J-aggregate having an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the λ_{max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state; and

water-dispersible polymer particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm, wherein the amount of the water-dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much as that of the J-aggregate.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

applying an ink composition for inkjet recording comprising a dye J-aggregate having an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the λ_{max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and water-dispersible polymer particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm, wherein the amount of the water-dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much as that of the J-aggregate,

to an image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate, wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

applying an ink composition to an image-receiving material, wherein the ink composition comprises a dye J-aggregate, wherein the dye changes the λ_{max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, the image-receiving material comprises an

image-receiving layer and a substrate, and the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and

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uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to the image-receiving material simultaneously with or subsequently to the application of the ink composition.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to an image-receiving material, the image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate, wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and

applying an ink composition comprising a dye J-aggregate to the applied water-dispersible polymer particles during the state that the ink composition can pass through the polymer particles to reach the image-receiving material, wherein the dye changes the λ_{max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state.

5. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye J-aggregate has an average particle size of 5 to 100 nm and the water-dispersible polymer particles have an average particle size of 20 to 200 nm.

6. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a pH between 4.5 and 10.0.

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7. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a surface tension of 20 to 60 mN/m.

8. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a viscosity not higher than 30 mPa·s.

9. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are a polymer latex.

10. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are water-insoluble polymers each having at least one dissociable group.

11. (Original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye for forming the J-aggregate is selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (1) to (11):

$$A^1=L^1-(L^2=L^3)_m-Q^1 \qquad (1)$$

$$A^1=L^1-(L^2=L^3)_n-A^2 \qquad (2)$$

$$A^3=N-Q^1 \qquad (3)$$

$$A^1=(L^1-L^2)_p=B^1 \qquad (4)$$

$$B^1=L^1-(L^2=L^3)_q-B^2 \qquad (5)$$

$$B^2-(L^1=L^2)_r-Q^1 \qquad (6)$$

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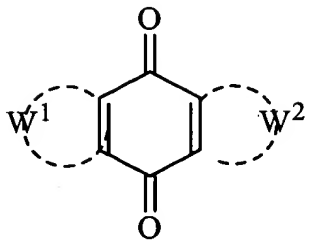
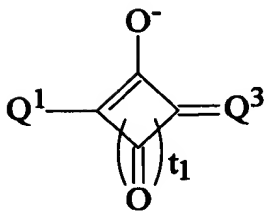
$$(Q^1)_3C^+ .(X^{y-})_{1/y} \qquad (7)$$

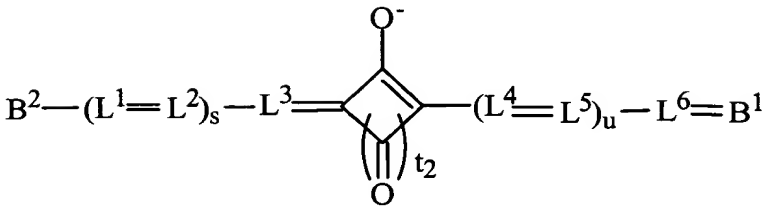


(8)

$$Q^1\text{-}N{=}N\text{-}Q^2 \qquad (9)$$



(10)



(11)

wherein, A^1 and A^2 each represents an acid nucleus, A^3 represents substituted or unsubstituted phenol, substituted or unsubstituted naphthol, or an acid nucleus, B^1 represents a base nucleus, B^2 represents the onium form of a base nucleus, Q^1 and Q^2 each independently represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, Q^3 represents the onium form of an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring, L^1, L^2, L^3, L^4, L^5 and L^6 each represents a methine group, m, s and u represents an integer of 0, 1 or 2, n and p each represent an integer between 0 and 3, q represents

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an integer between 0 and 4, r, t_1 and t_2 each represents an integer of 1 or 2, X^{y-} represents an anion, y represents an integer of 1 or 2, and W^1 and W^2 each independently represents an atomic group needed to complete a five- or six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic group.

12. (Original) The image forming method according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic white pigment is a synthetic amorphous silica.